CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A method for producing a blend output for use by a manufacturer to blend component ingredients to form a blended product, comprising:

(a) downloading, over a network to a blend processing system, time-sensitive data representing the current cost of at least one material whose price fluctuates based at least in part on market conditions;

(b) using said downloaded current cost information to calculate by a computer an actual cost of blending said product;

(c) automatically calculating by a computer the difference between said actual blend cost and a model blend cost; and

(d) formulating by a computer a blend output to form a blended product based at least in part on said calculation.

13. (previously presented) The method as in claim 12 wherein said material comprises grain and said downloaded cost data comprises a grain cost card.

14. (original) A system for controlling grain mixing, said system being coupled over a data network to a source of current grain prices, said system receiving information relating to currently prevailing grain cost, said system including:

a blend processor which, based on desired mix and source bin designations and said currently prevailing grain cost, calculates a blend cost and compares said blend cost with a model cost, said blend processor generating a blend mix output that specifies the amount of each of plural grain lots to mix in order to achieve said desired mix; and

a mass storage device operatively coupled to said blend processor, said mass storage device storing historical data concerning previous blends.

15. (previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said blend processor retrieves currently prevailing grain cost data via said data network at least once a day.

16. (previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said blend processor generates a blend entry data form providing interactive user input/output.

17. (previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said blend mix output includes number of bushel information, percent protein information, and grain moisture information.

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said blend mix output includes information indicating a difference between actual blend cost and model blend cost.

19. (previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said blend processor further produces a blend summary sheet for previous blends.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said blend processor prints a blend mix sheet and a blend summary sheet.

21. (previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said grain comprises wheat and said blend processor specifies a blend of plural wheat lots to provide flour of a desired grade.

22-32. (cancelled)

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the current cost of at least one material is downloaded over a network at least once a day.